

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

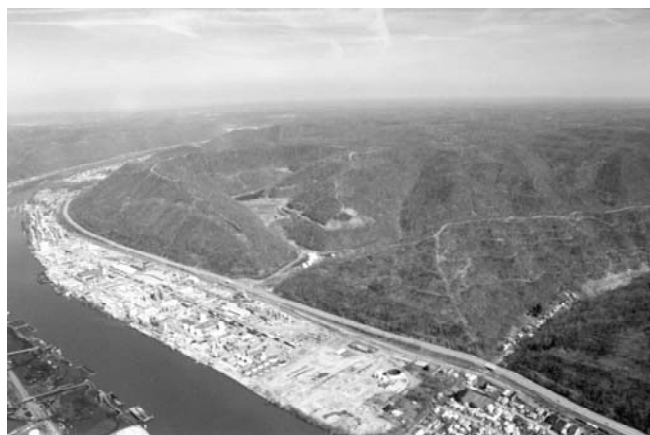
E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.

901 West Dupont Avenue

Belle, WV 25015

**Congressional District 2
EPA ID #: WVD005012851
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Current Progress at the Site



In September 1998, EPA issued the Corrective Action portion (i.e., HSWA permit) of RCRA Permit (Permit No. WVD 00-501-2851) to DuPont. The Corrective Action portion of the permit requires DuPont to conduct investigations and determine if corrective measures, of on-site solid waste management units (SWMUs) are necessary.

DuPont began implementing the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) field program in March 2000. Phase I of the RFI investigation was directed toward areas which likely pose the greatest threat to human and ecological receptors at or near the site. The activities included installing monitoring wells, and soil, sediment, and groundwater sampling. DuPont concluded the field work with a final round of groundwater sampling in the Fall of 2001, and submitted a summary report to EPA in April 2002. This report included recommendations for additional characterization at three areas where organic compounds were detected during Phase I. In late 2002 DuPont implemented a Phase II investigation to identify the sources and extent of impacted groundwater from these three areas. Phase II work identified the occurrence of light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) floating on the groundwater table in one of the areas

In 2002, DuPont also began evaluating remedial technologies to clean up an area of impacted soil and groundwater in the northern portion of the facility. This area, known as the Benzol Process Area, is located adjacent to the Kanawha River. The soil and groundwater is impacted with oily material from an underground tank, which was removed several years ago and associated with the former benzol process. In May, 2002 DuPont field tested contaminant destruction through in-situ chemical oxidation. Soil and groundwater results from this test indicated variable success in the removal of organic mass from the impacted media. Therefore, Dupont elected to examine alternative approaches. In December 2002, DuPont pilot tested air sparging and submitted a

summary of the pilot to EPA in April, 2003. The results were more favorable and DuPont intends to install an air sparging system in early 2004.

In 2003 DuPont initiated work to determine the volume of product present and to assess recovery options for the LNAPL found during Phase II.. DuPont also collected several surface water samples in the Kanawha River to assess whether source areas located near the river are adversely impacting the surface water quality. The results of the Kanawha River sampling indicate that the contaminated groundwater is not adversely impacting the surface water quality. Confirmation of these results will take place in 2004.

To address contaminated groundwater emanating from disposal of material in the mountain area portion of the site, DuPont has collected samples from several private home wells around the facility. The results show that the contaminated groundwater is not impacting any residential wells. In addition the facility has developed a groundwater model to assist in understanding the complex groundwater flow patterns of this area and to assess cleanup options. EPA contracted expertise at the United States Army Corp of Engineers to oversee DuPont's model development.

Site Description

The DuPont Belle Plant is located in Belle, West Virginia, approximately 8 miles east of Charleston, W.V. The 720-acre site is situated along the Kanawha River and has manufactured various specialty and agricultural chemical products since 1926. Today, DuPont employs approximately 600 people at the Belle site. The facility has 7 primary operating divisions that span a 125-acre manufacturing area that is nearly 1 mile in length. An additional 595-acres of mountain property is situated just north of the site across Route 60.

The Belle Plant is located in an area that consists of industrial, commercial, and residential land use. A former Occidental Chemical Corporation industrial facility is located immediately adjacent to the site's eastern boundary.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

Contaminants

Volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds are the main constituents found in the site's soil and groundwater. These compounds primarily consist of acetone, benzene, 2-butanone, phenol, toluene, and xylene.

Community Interaction

As part of its activities as a member of the local community, the DuPont Belle Plant has organized a Community Advisory Council to address citizen's concerns about the site safety,

health and environmental performance, and review related topics. The team is composed of citizens from neighboring communities and plant personnel. Programs like the RFI are typically reviewed in the council's monthly meetings. DuPont and EPA periodically update the CAC on the progress of the investigation and cleanup.

Information Repository

The DuPont Belle Plant retains information related to the RCRA Permit and RFI. Information requests can be directed to Timothy A. Albert, Environmental Coordinator at the following address:

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm

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